

Amendments to City's Charter on November 8, 2016 Ballot

On November 8, 2016, Wyoming voters will be asked to consider amendments to the City's Charter. The Wyoming Charter requires that Council appoint a Charter Review Commission once every five (5) years. The Charter Review Commission, made up of volunteer residents and elected officials, is responsible for reviewing the Charter and making recommendations for revisions or amendments. The Charter Review Commission spent several months reviewing the Charter and discussing ways to make improvements. The Commission summarized its recommendations in a report to Council, which was presented at the May 16, 2016 City Council Meeting. Council considered the recommendations and passed an ordinance on June 20, 2016 to place the proposed changes on the ballot to be considered by the voters.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

- Amend Section 3.04, Mayor: Election, Term, Qualifications and Powers, to clarify that, in addition to having all judicial powers which are conferred upon Mayors, the Mayor also has the ability to appoint a Mayor's Court Magistrate, as is customary in many municipalities, including Wyoming.
- Amend Section 3.05, Vice-Mayor, to include a provision that, in the event of a vacancy in the position of Mayor, the Vice-Mayor shall serve as Mayor for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- Amend Section 3.07, Council Meetings, to include a provision stating that all meetings of Council shall be open to the public except as otherwise permitted by state law and local ordinance for matters which have been determined to require confidentiality.
- Section 3.09, Removal and Vacancies currently provides that, in the event of a vacancy on council, the remaining members shall elect a successor. If Council fails to elect a successor, the Mayor shall "immediately fill the vacancy by appointment". It is proposed that the word "immediately" be deleted to allow sufficient time for the Mayor to interview and consider interested candidates for the position.
- Amend Section 4.06, Purchases and Contracts, to allow the City to exercise its Home Rule authority under the Ohio Constitution to enact comprehensive legislation for contracting and competitive bidding.
- Amend Section 8.02, Nominations, to make the deadline for submitting petitions for members of Council consistent with state law by changing the date by which petitions must be submitted from seventy-five (75) days before the regular municipal election to ninety (90) days before the regular municipal election.

Copies of the full text of the proposed amendments will be published in the Tri-County Press prior to the November 8, 2016 election and are also available for review at the City Administration Building.